Closure of mica mining industries in Bihar

*437. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis being faced by the mica mining industry in Bihar with the closing of a large number of mines thus rendering thousands of tribal workers jobless;

(b) if so, what is the total number of mica mines that have since been closed down in Bihar;

(c) the factors responsible for the present situtiom; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of working mica mines in Bihar has declined from 242 in 1972 to 53 in 1990.

(c) The main reasons for the decline in the number of mica mines in Bihar may be ascribed to the following:—

1. Depletion of mica pegmatities.

2. Recession in demand in the international market due to changes in technology, and competition from other mica producing countries.

3. Mines not being able to produce large size mica.

4. Acute shortage of power.

(d) The steps taken by Government for reviving the mica mining industry are as follows:—

1. Modification of procurement policy fro mica scrap to provide better price to manufacturers.

2. Eestablishment of industries producing value added mica based products;

3. A Committee on Mica Industry & Trade was set up in September, 1989 to identify the problems of the Mica industry. The Committee has submitted its report suggesting remedial measures.

SAARC Decade of the girl child

*438. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan to observe 1991-2000 as the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps to be taken by the Central and State Governments to assure the Girl Child its due place in the society?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A draft outline of a plan of action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child has been prepared for consultation with the State Governments and concerned Deptts. of the Government of India. It will deal, among other things, with the nutrition, health, education, awareness generation and vocational skills for girls.

World Bank Loans for Agricultural Development in Rajasthan

*439. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that $ 100 million aid is likely to be sanctioned by the World Bank for a comprehensive agricultural development in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the areas likely to be benefited thereby;

(c) whether the World Bank has set any pre-condition in regard to the aid;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) by when the final appraisal meeting is likely to be held and the agreement signed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) (a) to (e) A comprehensive Agriculture Development Project for Rajasthan is currently under preparation and discussion with the World Bank. The quantum of funding, time of likely assistance, details of area coverage, etc., would be known only after the project is finalised.

मेटल स्क्रैप का आयात

*440. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**

सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1991-92 में स्क्रैप के आयात के लिये मेटल स्क्रैप ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को 450 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किये गये हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि यह राशि पिछले वर्षों के दौरान किये गये आवंटन की अपेक्षा कम है;

(ग) क्या अवमूल्यन के कारण आयात की मात्रा पिछले वर्षों की अपेक्षा कम होने की संभावना है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस कारपोरेशन द्वारा कितना स्क्रैप आयात किया गया और लघु इस्पात एककों की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिये क्या प्रबन्ध किये गये हैं?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) यह सच है कि वर्ष 1991-92 में स्क्रैप का आयात करने के लिये वर्ष के आरम्भ में मेटल स्क्रैप ट्रेड कारपोरेशन को 450 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए गए थे तथापित बाद में राशि को कम करके लगभग 150 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) अवमूल्यन और निर्बाध विदेशी मुद्रा का कम आवंटन करने के कारण पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में आयात की मात्रा में कमी होने की संभावना है।

(घ) चालू वर्ष के दौरान अब तक एम०एस०टी०सी० के माध्यम से आयात के रूप में देश में 1,29,000 टन स्क्रैप प्राप्त हुआ। 79,000 टन के लिए भी एम०एस०टी०सी० द्वारा आर्डर दे दिए गए हैं। एम०एस०टी०सी० को उपलब्ध कराई गई विदेशी मुद्रा से यह लगभग 2,00,000 टन के और आर्डर दे सकती है। प्रयोक्ता उद्योगों (लघु इस्पात यूनिटों सहित) को एम०एस० टी० सी० द्वारा कारपोरेशन में पंजीकृत उनकी मांग के अनुपात में आयातित स्क्रैप का वितरण किया जाता है। वास्तविक प्रयोक्ता भी निर्यात-आयात पत्र के माध्यम से स्क्रैप का सीधे आयात कर सकते हैं।

New functions of NDDB

3301. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Dairy Development Board has sought a portion of private channels in order to launch a campaign against Government's decision to privatise Dairy Industry as reported in the "Times of India" dated the 11th October, 1991; and

(b) whether Government propose to allocate the present works of the National Dairy Development Board in relation to milk, fish, vegetable oils, fruits and vegetables, vaccines etc. to other relevant Boards to avoid duplication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.